

ointment with wool fat (lanolin), by itself, or combined with belladonna, zinc or mercurial ointment, etc. Manufactured by Mallinckrodt Chemical Works, St. Louis.

(TO BE CONTINUED)

### PURE FOOD COMMISSION NOTES.

By George H. Kress, C. D., Secretary, Los Angeles, Cal.

The Los Angeles members of the State Pure Food Commission, under guidance of the Health Officer of Los Angeles, Dr. L. M. Powers, who is also the chairman of the Pure Food Committee of the Los Angeles County Medical Association, recently made two dairy inspection tours, each trip covering about seventy-five miles of territory. Some two score or more dairies were rapidly inspected, the thought being to give the members of the Commission a somewhat better conception of the many difficulties met with by the health officers in their efforts to make dairymen use proper cleanliness in their methods of procuring milk.

Not much attention was paid to the matter of tuberculin-tested herds. Here and there a dairyman was found who of his own volition had had his herds tested. The sentiment amongst dairymen at the present time is, however, not of a character to induce them to engage in this work of their own accord. At least, such is the case so far as the Los Angeles dairymen are concerned. In Pasadena it is different, for that city has an ordinance whereby it is obligatory for dairymen to have all cattle tested. This provision of the Pasadena dairy ordinance went into effect only recently, and not without some opposition on the part of one or two of the largest milk dealers.

The good effects of the provisions of the Los Angeles Dairy Ordinance, with its more adequate inspection, is already shown in the much better condition of the stanchions and the corrals. The dairymen have learned to know that the inspections of the health officer's deputies mean business, and that notices to keep the dairy surroundings in clean condition must be obeyed. As a result of this more systematic and thorough inspection, not an inconsiderable number of the worst offenders have already advertised their places and cattle for sale and are going out of business. With the worst offenders out of business, the task of educating the other dairymen up to still higher standards will be considerably lightened.

The barns and stanchions of most of the dairymen were built some years ago, and the rather poor hygienic arrangement and architectural construction of these structures show what are the results when there is no supervision to protect such a very necessary food product as milk.

Each dairyman built his barn according to his own conception of what such a structure should be, modeling usually after poorly adapted Eastern styles, and as a result, there is a hodge-podge of architecture that is but poorly adapted in many instances to the needs for which such structures were intended.

The Pure Food Commission hopes to be able to present, some time soon, plans of dairy structures that will be both hygienic and economical in construction. If plans of such structures could be found on the walls of our health offices, we believe dairymen would be only too glad to avail themselves of the suggestions.

Among dairies visited, several had cement floors for the stanchions. There is a prevailing sentiment that the cement floors are harmful to the cattle. This may be true of the East where cattle are obliged to remain in the barns and stanchions almost the entire day, but such an objection can not be applied with very much force to Southern California, where

practically the cattle are out in the open all the time, excepting the brief periods for milking.

There can be but little doubt that the cement floors can be kept in a much more sanitary condition than the usual wood planking with its cracks and holes on the surface and the accumulation of filth beneath.

It is surprising when one considers that in the Southern California country where only a roof is needed for the cattle, that so many cumbersome structures should have been erected, when the same amount of money, labor and work could have erected roomy, commodious, well ventilated and sanitary buildings.

The mode of construction of the milk houses where the milk is taken to be cooled, is even more disappointing than that of the barns or stanchions. Until the passage of the recent dairy ordinance, many of the dairies, especially the smaller dairymen, made not the least pretense of having such a separate structure, but would keep their delivery cans in the milking barn or stanchion. Under the new law, this building must be at least fifty feet away from the milking building, and must be supplied with apparatus for cooling the milk.

The fault that seems to apply to nearly all of such milk houses, is the lack of ventilation. The buildings are too solidly and compactly erected, with a small screened window or two for ventilation. It would seem to be a much wiser proceeding to erect a single or double lattice-work structure, such as is used by florists, and to cover this lattice-work structure with screening. Such a building gives shade and at the same time allows free access to air and light, and really is cooler than a stuffy shed, and with the cement floor gives much better chances for keeping the milk in hygienic surroundings, than when the milk house is nothing more than a hot, stuffy box.

The fly question is a serious one in connection with nearly all of these milk houses. It is curious how many of the dairymen supply good screens on the doors and windows and then will leave one or more openings of about half a foot or more square at some point, where on the outside the wall is black with flies. On calling the attention of such a dairyman to the presence in the milkhouse of flies, he invariably replies that the doors and windows are screened and seems to take no account of other means of ingress.

The Committee saw several milking machines in use, the most successful types being those operated not by foot-power, but by a small distillate engine. The dairymen who use these machines claim that the cattle do not object at all. Certainly, if they do in the beginning, they rapidly become accustomed to the new arrangement. The construction of these machines is comparatively simple and a conscientious dairyman should have little difficulty in keeping the tubing clean. These machines milk the cows quite dry, although the dairymen usually milk each teat before leaving the cow. One of the men who is using them, says they are a great blessing and that in addition to being cleaner and far less troublesome than unsatisfactory, ignorant dairy hands, they are far more economical and that they pay for themselves in a comparatively short time. Several of these machines have been in use for some months now, and this testimony means that they will ultimately come into general vogue, for if they are a success now, then, with whatever defects they may have, remedied, they must of necessity become still greater successes.

The Commission is in favor of such milking machines because the chance for bacterial contamination is much lessened. They are far to be preferred to dirty, ignorant, obstinate dairy hands.

The Commission spent a number of evenings in

joint session with Dr. L. M. Powers, Health Officer of Los Angeles, who desired to have Los Angeles adopt an ordinance that would minimize the smoke nuisance. An ordinance was finally drawn up and presented to the Council and will come up for first consideration on July 13th. Its fate is hard to foretell, for the large gas and other corporations will be pitted against it.

Air is a food and on this ground the Commission took up this subject. Meetings were held with engineers and visits were made to the gas plant and other places. There can be but little doubt but that smoke can be prevented from ordinary furnaces using oil as a fuel. The Gas Company and railroads claim they can not prevent it. They are the major offenders, likewise the possessors of greatest political influence.

If the Commission fails in this effort, it intends to bring the subject up again. The cause is a righteous one, the people are in favor of such an ordinance, and all that is needed is an expression from them as persistent and as powerful as that from the big corporations. When this expression is forthcoming the legislators will no doubt be glad to pass the ordinance.

The Commission recognizes the vested material interests of the gas and other corporations, but recognizes also the vested hygienic interests of the people of Los Angeles. It feels the rights of the people in such a matter are vital and equally important. In future issues we will chronicle the further fate of this proposed ordinance.

We urge all Presidents of County Medical Associations who have not already done so, to send in to the State Commission, the names of the members who compose the respective County Pure Food Committees. Unless this is done, much extra correspondence and work will be transferred to the State Commission. The address of the State Commission is Stowell Block, Pasadena, California.

## PUBLICATIONS.

### *Folia Urologica.*

With Professor James Israel of Berlin as Editor-in-Chief, Professor A. Kollmann of Leipzig, Dr. G. Kulisch of Halle and Dr. W. Tamms of Leipzig as associate editors and other principal urologists of Europe as collaborators, these new international archives are announced by the house of W. Klinkhardt, Leipzig. Exhaustive original articles with colored plates and illustrations will be the principal feature of *Folia Urologica*. Contributions will be published in the four languages that are officially used in Congresses and each paper will be summarized in the three other languages. The new publication will contain a department entitled "Events in Urology" in which the regular collaborators will periodically report on the advances in this specialty, after having tested them critically in their respective services and laboratories. Finally *Folia Urologica* is to serve as a means of collecting the annual reports on urological work in hospitals, clinics, etc., throughout the world. With a view to publishing contributions as quickly as possible, the issues of *Folia Urologica* will appear as often as required. Contributions from North, Central and South American authors may be sent to either of the American editorial representatives, William N. Wishard, M. D., Newton-Claypool Building, Indianapolis, Ind., or Ferd C. Valentine, 171 West Seventy-first street, New York.

**Retinoscopy (or shadow test) in the Determination of Refraction at One Meter Distance With the Plane Mirror.** By James Thorington, A. M., M. D., Professor of Diseases of the Eye in the Philadelphia Polyclinic and College for Graduates in medicine; Ophthalmologist to the Elwyn and Vineland Training School for Feeble-Minded Children. Fifth Edition, Revised and Enlarged. Fifty-four Illustrations. Philadelphia, P. Blakiston's Son & Co. 1906.

This small book, now in its fifth edition, calls for little comment. It is an abstract of the author's more extensive writings on retinoscopy. The development of this objective method of determining refraction errors is so intimately linked with Dr. Thorington's name that it gives assurance of authoritative statement. Little used at first, the test is now conceded to be of the greatest value in a certain class of cases, particularly in nystagmus, amblyopia, and in examining young children, the feeble-minded and illiterates. The methods described by the author are simple and clearly given, while the illustrations admirably serve the purpose for which they are designed. Above all other things, the book is practical.

A. J. L.

**Indications for Operations in Disease of the Internal Organs.** By Professor Hermann Schlesinger, M. D., Extraordinary Professor of Medicine in the University of Vienna. Authorized English Translation by Keith W. Monsarrat, M. B., F. R. C. S., Ed. Surgeon to the Northern Hospital, Liverpool. New York, E. B. Treat & Co. 1906.

Professor Schlesinger has written on a subject which is admittedly of the greatest importance at the present time. The question of the indications for operations is one which is constantly presenting itself to the practitioner, and one which is often difficult of decision. With this idea in mind the book has been written. In each chapter remarks on etiology, pathological anatomy, clinical course, diagnosis, and differential diagnosis have been included to enable the practitioner to obtain quickly a general grasp of the condition under consideration. And at the end of each section an excellent bibliography is appended. In the original the work is so well known that it requires no special commendation at this time. The translation is good. We recommend its careful study by all classes of physicians.

A. J. L.

**Our Children. Hints from Practical Experience for Parents and Teachers.** By Paul Carus. Chicago: The Open Court Publishing Company. 1906.

This charming little book on the education of children is of particular interest to parents and professional teachers of the young, but it may be profitably read by all classes of readers. For some years the importance of the subject has received more or less universal recognition, nevertheless the first education of babies is generally left to uneducated nurses, who usually have not the slightest idea of the sacredness of their trust and know very little about the training of infants. The first impressions made on a child's mind are especially important as they form the basis of the child's whole future development, and they remain for a long time, sometimes forever, the standard by which all later impressions are measured. Should we not, therefore, exercise the greatest care, and instead of leaving the first mental impressions of children to accident, see to it that they are throughout correct?

It does not seem necessary to us to review the